



*The*  
**REFRESHING**

ISSUE #17 2023 | FREE MAGAZINE | NOT FOR SALE

**WARNING: READ AT OWN RISK**

“He must increase,  
and we must decrease.”

VALUABLE TO

**JESUS**

*Gauteng*



**CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
ABUSE, PROSTITUTION  
& PORNOGRAPHY.**

Sexual brokenness is no longer an issue that communities can ignore. Pornography, sexual assault, rape, molestation, prostitution, sex trafficking affect people of ALL ages and genders. These issues disrupt community and make it harder for people to be functional citizens that contribute and interact in their community.

**Can we afford to stand by any longer  
and watch our communities get torn apart?**

**There are ways to empower and  
proactively protect our communities!**

Join us as we initiate a



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**DISCLAIMER WARNING:** The Refreshing Magazine contains strong Christian themes and content portrayed in our pages; as well as the heavy use of citations taken from the HOLY BIBLE. By reading this magazine you do this at your own discretion, indemnifying the authors and publishers of this publication.

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**Contributors:** Annetta Wheeler , Alan Foxley, Lindiwe Radebe, Louis Ambati, Wain Vosloo. Proof Readers: Alan Foxley, Annetta Wheeler & Marthie Olivier .  
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# Letter from the Editor

2022 was a year that will stand out to many as a year of new beginnings - for most of the world had a reprieve from COVID-19, as numbers that once spiralled out of control dropped significantly. This magazine is looking back at the memorial stones God's faithfulness laid for us along the road.

Testimonies are very important in this time that we are living in. To be able to tell real stories are essential for us as more and more nations make it illegal to share scripture with others, we are forced as believers to shine from the innermost where Jesus resides. Many of us can testify, sing and rejoice in the goodness of God. The darkness cannot hide or comprehend us. Neither does it have the power to extinguish us. Neither can the darkness overcome us - because it is those of the light who overcome the world! Enjoy this issue and may it inspire you to shine brighter and brighter till the return of our beautiful Saviour Jesus! †

# Thoughts from the Chairperson

This edition of the Refreshing Magazine describes two important, but opposing elements at work in our present world. The one, the spirit of narcissism (self-love) backed by the forces of darkness, and the other, the Spirit of the Lord, manifested wherever humble and obedient children of God are found to be. The level of self-love we see is clearly a sign of the end times as the reader will see later in these pages. Sadly, it is an overwhelming occurrence everywhere. Nevertheless, *Isaiah 59:19 (NKJV)* declares; “*When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.*” Is it small wonder then that two of the contributions herein are on the testimony of God’s greatest prophet, John the Baptist? He said; “*He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease*”. May this be our battle cry, and may we continually seek to associate in the ministry with those whose hearts are fully committed to putting only Jesus first in all things.

Alan Foxley

*Chairperson, EAR2HEAR †*

## **Deuteronomy 32:1 - 4 NLT**

“Listen, O heavens, and I will speak! Hear, O earth, the words that I say! Let my teaching fall on you like rain; let my speech settle like dew. Let my words fall like rain on tender grass, like gentle showers on young plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!”



# LIFE

# INSPIRATION

*By Annetta Wheeler*

*He must become more.*

*I must become less*

John the Baptist said the words, “He must become more, I must become less”, referring to the fact that his group of followers decreased as many people went to join the group that followed Jesus (John 3:30 ). But I think it was not just words, it revealed the focus of his life. He used the opportunity to clearly state that the people themselves could testify that he had said, “I am not the Christ “ but was sent ahead of Him. He then goes on to explain that the bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends to the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice (John 3: 28-29). He concluded *“that joy is mine and it is now complete”*.

He must have known about his miracle birth when his parents were already old; how an angel appeared to Zechariah and spoke a prophecy over his life: that he would go before the Lord.





He would make ready a people prepared for the Lord as was already mentioned in Malachi 3:1. The angel also mentioned that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth (Luke 1:16). You will be called a prophet of the Most High (Luke 1:76-80), And the child grew and became strong in spirit and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel. His clothes were made of camel's hair and he had a leather belt around his waist (Matthew 3:4 and 5). His food was locusts and wild honey. Even in those days such a life of simplicity was out of the ordinary.

He was humble and at first, did not want to baptise Jesus. He said that he was not worth fastening his shoelaces. He gave honour and praise to Jesus when he exclaimed, "There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). He also testified after Jesus was baptised and the Holy Spirit came upon Him: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

John's words "*He must become more, I must become less*" also encourages us to think of a higher level towards which we should strive.

Paul prayed for the Ephesians, and all readers, that they all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as they mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.

We need to consider how to achieve this goal. We must grow in love for God, in awe, praise of God, thankfulness, surrendering, obeying the soft voice of the Spirit. We must adopt the same attitude as that of Christ, He emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5 -8). Have a fixed time for reading the Bible and praying. Like a cell phone's battery, your inner being must be charged regularly. Keep focus amidst busy daily life situations, and renew your thoughts and the way you look at circumstances.

Another person whose life is recorded in the Bible in much detail is that of Joseph (Genesis 37, 39, 40-44, 50). He suffered in the pit, was sold as a slave, and was innocently thrown into prison and the Bible states: God was with him and showed extended kindness to him (Genesis 39: 21-23). Here we read how Joseph experiences God's faithful love saying: *"the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love"*.

And remember he did not know the final outcome of his life story as we now know it! When he later was second in charge in Egypt, he said these remarkable words: “What you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this; to bring it about that many people should be kept alive” (Genesis 50:20).

Daniel is also a person whose focus was on the Lord when he kept on praying to the Lord despite risking being thrown into the lion's' den, which indeed happened. Darius, a heathen king, called out to him the next morning: “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God whom you serve faithfully, able to save you from the lions?” You can read the result and the decree that Darius sent to every dominion of his kingdom (Daniel 6: 26 – 28).

Many martyrs through the ages up to today, kept their focus on the Lord, honouring Him and His kingdom.

Recently I attended a memorial service where the pastor spoke about his wife's death. She suddenly lifted both arms into the air but she had been so fragile and tired as a result of her cancer, that the previous day she could not lift her hand!

She looked up and seemed to be seeing something or Someone and then passed away. This same experience was confirmed by another lady who spoke about her mother's death, as well as another friend who stood at a believer's deathbed.

My own mother's prayer the last time when I could visit her, was a confirmation to me that not even a brain tumour and cancer which had spread through her body could erase what had been her prayer, her belief and her attitude through many years. She had at a time experienced depression after her eldest brother died at a very young age. She prayed the following sentence fluently:

“Dear Lord let us wake up with a first thought of thankfulness towards You.”

During those days a brain tumour had prevented her from speaking a whole sentence; she would stop after three words! That sentence was one that she had often used to end her prayers when she and I had prayed together since I was a teenager ...and I was 34 years old at the time of her illness and death.

**Indeed these persons were more focused on God than on themselves, He had become greater, they had become less by His grace! Praise His Name!**

**I can only bow my head in prayer trusting God: He who began a good work in you (and me ) will bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6) †**





# AFRICA VISION

Beginning in 2007, we embarked on a journey to connect with organisations, churches, and leaders in Africa to explore God's desire for coexistence and unity. This experiment provided valuable insights that helped us prepare for the next season God has in store for us. Our vision was to see the bride of Christ in action, the sons of God collaborating, the friends of God in unity, and the servants of God focused on heavenly pursuits. Building on this experience, we regrouped in 2020, engaging in prayer and discussion, eventually launching an informal joint initiative in 2022 known as the **AFRICA VISION CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE**, or simply **AFRICA VISION**.

Our **VISION** is to foster meaningful connections among fellow Kingdom workers who share a common purpose. By building informal relationships, we aim to uplift and inspire each other, working in harmony towards our shared goal of spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom as taught by Jesus Christ.

Together, we can create a united movement that embodies the values and teachings of Jesus Christ, positively impacting the world around us. Our relational approach is not limited to being mere "partners" or "business-like," like has been practiced before. Instead, we aspire to embrace a family model that fosters caring collaboration in projects, outreaches, and ministry. We aim to share resources, contacts, ideas, and thoughts while praying for one another. We strive to advance each other's mandates and celebrate the successes that God brings across our paths.

**CONSIDER COLLABORATING WITH US  
FOR THE KINGDOM:**

Email Ps Lindiwe Radebe at  
**[iradebe@hotmail.com](mailto:iradebe@hotmail.com)** or **[info@ear2hear.co.za](mailto:info@ear2hear.co.za)**



Introducing one of the new facilitators...

**Ps. Isabel Radebe** from South Africa, with a wealth of experience in facilitating joint meetings among leaders in the Vaal Triangle, leading mission trips to Southern African nation-states, and writing about eschatology, is our first to join the facilitation team. †



**Deuteronomy 10:17 NLT**

“For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed.”



# JESUS OUR INSPIRATION

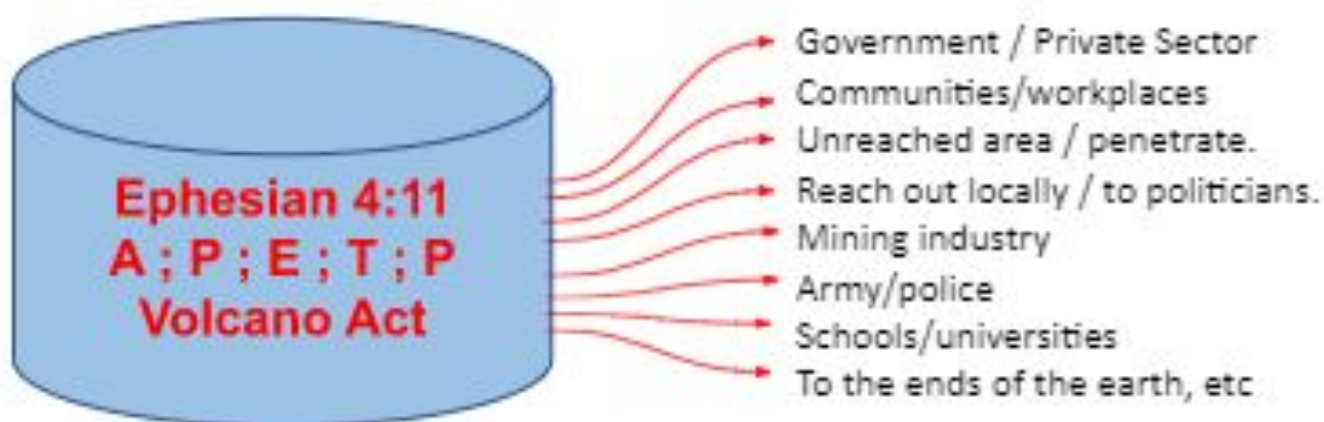
*Report by Ps Lindiwe Radebe*

We give all glory to our ALMIGHTY GOD, that, as members in the “JESUS is Coming Outreach Ministry” working together with “EAR2HEAR”, we see the move of the HOLY SPIRIT as we take the Gospel to the rest of our African Continent as well as to the Ends of the Earth. The link between “EAR2HEAR” and the “JESUS is Coming Outreach Ministry” is a Divine Connection. EAR2HEAR provides the **material resources** and the “JESUS is Coming” team provides **human resources** to spread the Gospel. This is fulfilled as one body of believers, reaching out to the Ends of the Earth.

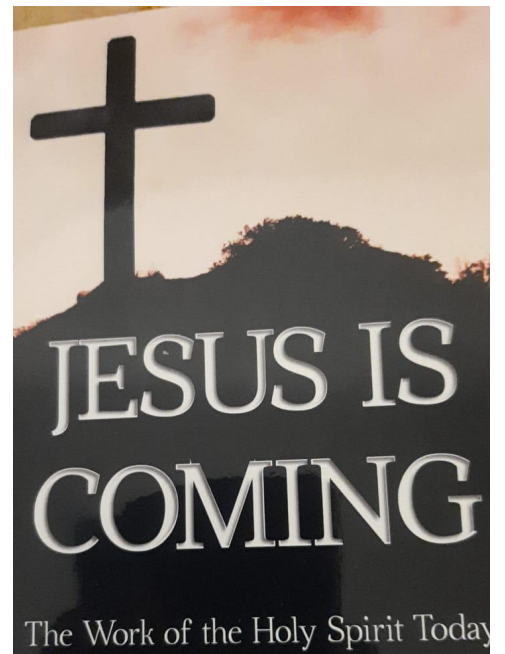
In 2022, the team managed to reach out within South Africa, Zimbabwe, America, the UK, the Philippines, Canada, Australia and New Zealand through travelling and through international Radio and TV broadcasts. The message includes the Good News Gospel, JESUS is Coming and the Work of the HOLY SPIRIT as HE purifies believers, preparing them for the Coming of CHRIST.



As written in Ephesians 4:11, the team is formed by **Apostles (A), Pastors (P), Evangelists (E), Teachers (T) of the Word and Prophets (P)**. When reaching out, the team starts by presenting to the leadership of that area/country the purpose of reaching out through six-hour workshops explaining the revelation of the Coming of JESUS through the work of the HOLY SPIRIT. Even though the day and hour of HIS Coming is unknown, the message is clear that souls must be ready for it. As led by the HOLY SPIRIT, the team is still witnessing the move of the HOLY SPIRIT where Discipleship is continuously multiplying just like a volcano as shown below.



Jesus says in Matthew 20:18-20, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to ME. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* To fulfill the above command, several crusades were conducted after the leader's workshops, which led to the salvation of souls, healings and deliverance through the work of the HOLY SPIRIT. We must acknowledge that there are times when penetration or reaching out is not easy, but the HOLY SPIRIT takes us through all obstacles we face. We believe this is the beginning of Revival and Restoration, because GOD is restoring and preparing us for the Coming of the LORD. †



**Zephaniah 3:17 NLT**

“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”



# He Must Increase But I Must Decrease!

By Lambert Bariho, Ellel Ministries Rwanda

*“You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ The one who has the bride is the bride groom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bride groom’s voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:28-30, ESV). John the Baptist was one of the greatest Bible characters of Jesus’ time. By the time Jesus was introduced to the scene, John had a very successful ministry with many people coming to him to be baptised. After he had introduced Jesus as the Messiah and Lamb of God, some of John’s followers started to leave him to follow Jesus. Some of John’s disciples were concerned and pointed out to him that Jesus was starting to be more popular than him. The response of John the Baptist is stunning, especially in today’s world where popularity is sought after by all possible means.

John pointed out that he was only a friend to the bridegroom and that his joy was complete by hearing that Jesus was gaining a greater following than his. He concluded by saying, ‘He must increase but I must decrease’.

How hard these words are ... to absolutely decrease, while Jesus increases! Most of the time we make these words mean: “He must increase, and I must increase with Him”. But, to John the Baptist, it was: “He must increase, but I must decrease”. The ‘must’ was not only about Jesus increasing, but also about John decreasing. John saw both as things that had to happen. He didn’t want to take anything from the glory that Jesus deserves. This allowed many people – including you and I – to focus on Jesus and put our faith in Him, instead of focusing on John the Baptist.



How many times do we stand in the way of others seeing Jesus and believing in Him because we want to increase with Him? He's called us to be His witnesses wherever He sends us. But how often do we point people to ourselves and to our ministries and our churches, instead of pointing people to Him? How often do we portray ourselves as the most important person, instead of Christ? He must increase, we must decrease.

**Prayer:** Father God, forgive me for the times I portrayed myself as important, instead of Christ. I pray for a humble heart and for a continued reverence for Your Son, Jesus Christ. May He increase, while I decrease every day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. †

[www.ellel.org](http://www.ellel.org)







# OCEANIA VISION



Recently, we arrived in Australia to embark on a new exploratory initiative aimed at expanding the Kingdom's reach into the region.

We extend our gratitude to **Janelle Haefele**, a fellow adventurer, who has graciously volunteered to lead prayer actions as we delve into new opportunities in the region.

Our objective is to establish a counterpart to the **AFRICA VISION CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE**, known as **OCEANIA VISION CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE** or **OCEANIA VISION**, and to cultivate cooperative ventures throughout the Oceania region.

This vast region spans 23 countries and territories, covering thousands of square kilometres and inhabited by almost 40 million people.

- Please pray for this exciting new initiative.
- Pray for open doors and divine connections.
- Pray that the Lord would raise a good facilitation team.



**CONSIDER  
COLLABORATING  
WITH US FOR THE  
KINGDOM:**

Email Janelle Haefele at  
[info@ear2hear.co.za](mailto:info@ear2hear.co.za) †

**A sign of the times**



**Narcissism**

## **A Global Trend**

Narcissism is a relatively new concept for people. For the last two decades, behavioural scientists have continued to observe this particular personality disorder with great interest. As the world changes we see there are growing concerns about this issue as it ripples through society. For example, more and more couples are filing for divorce because of a spouse with narcissistic tendencies.

Young people no longer discuss marriage in terms of choosing life partners that “complement” one another's personality. Today, young people insist everything must be the same - personality, temperament, looks, likes and dislikes. There are great expectations that this is the recipe for success. These relationships often end up with one partner being abused when they fail to meet their partner's expectations. In extreme circumstances, when a narcissist in a relationship is facing a very low point in self-esteem, they will go out of their way to make their partner miserable, so that they can feel better about themselves.

## Encyclopedia Britannica defines Narcissism as...

*...usually diagnosed through clinical evaluation. It is defined by the fifth edition (2013) of DSM in terms of the personality traits of grandiosity & attention-seeking and in terms of significant impairments in personality functioning—such as looking excessively to others for the regulation of self-esteem, viewing oneself as exceptional, having impaired empathy, and having mostly superficial relationships. Those qualities remain relatively stable over time and are not attributable primarily to a medical condition, the use of drugs, or the individual's developmental stage. Researchers have also investigated a less-extreme form of narcissism that is termed the narcissistic personality type. Such individuals possess most or all of the characteristics of the narcissistic personality disorder but are considered within the normal range of personality.*

<https://www.britannica.com/science/narcissism>

Terms like “gaslighting” have been coined by scientists to explain how narcissists try to make their partners feel like they are “stupid” or “crazy” by sabotaging their loved ones in various ways; then the narcissist blames their partner as if they are the cause of the problems. Narcissism is not only affecting marriages but wherever relationships are important. From families to the work environment - narcissism is on the rise!

Ultimately, if we had to **define narcissism - it is varying degrees of self-obsession to the point of self-harm and/or harming of others.** Should we be surprised by this global pandemic? Of course not. The lifestyles of billions of people have changed in the last 2 decades thanks to the advent of social media platforms.

For the last 20 years, society has been conditioned to report back on their lives through these platforms by taking “selfies” or self-portrait photographs using phones or computers. Each report or social media post requires you to put your best foot forward. So each self-portrait must be perfect. No blemishes or wrinkles. Smartphones come with artificial intelligence applications that automatically remove imperfections.



*“Each report requires you to put your best foot forward”*

These social platforms ask you to give feedback not just of your face, but of every detail of life, holidays, and relationships - and they must all be shown in a good light. The better the photos and videos the more you stand out among the social connections who may follow various profiles and day-to-day activities. To further the problem, a positive reinforcement system is used to encourage users to “feed” the platform. You can send a heart or a thumbs-up to the person sharing every detail of their life. The more thumbs-ups or hearts you receive the greater your success at getting people's attention. Social media companies exploit the narcissistic tendencies of their users to mine (collect) their personal data and repackage it to sell it to businesses with large marketing needs.

Society has been engineered to help human development to remain immature. An immaturity will lead to insecurity and a fragile perception of self. The system helps people to build a frail image of themselves, with no real identity or purpose of self. The **obsession** with the self makes it harder and harder to reach beyond and love other people.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white collared shirt, is looking down at her smartphone. She is holding the phone with both hands. The phone has a dark green case. The background is blurred, showing some green foliage on the left and a grey wall on the right.

**“Social media companies exploit the narcissistic tendencies of their users to mine (collect) their personal data and repackage it for the purpose of selling it to businesses with large marketing needs.”**



While social media provides us with an amazing way for lost friends and family to connect, and for open communication channels for business. More and more are starting to see and feel how the cost of social media is starting to outweigh the benefits. Jesus warned us in the Gospel of Matthew 24:12 TPT concerning the last days: **“There will be such an increase of the sin of lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold.”**

In the past, the world may not have had a perfect love, but in many places, love was shown to us through the neighbourly concern. Jesus describes a time when people would be completely engrossed within themselves, in the world and the Church. Even the “little love” that could be found at one point in time would be replaced with self-obsession and self-aggrandizing behaviour. Paul the Apostle wrote in his last letter to Timothy and warned him of terrible times that would be seen in the world to come. Almost 2000 years later and his predictions are absolutely spot-on for this time. The Church is also a victim of this social engineering. So many are coming under the trance of the evil one.

## **The Difficulty with the Self-Obsessed?**

***“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!”*** 2 Timothy 3:1-6 TPT

Paul paints a grim picture for Timothy; of a world that stands on the edge of total chaos. Self-obsessed, self-interested, and self-praising. The Apostle James and the Apostle Peter in their letters to the Church, speak clearly on the grave sin of pride. In essence they summarise Proverbs 3:34 in which they say: *“God resists you when you are proud but continually pours out grace when you are humble.”* (James 4:6; and 1 Peter 5:5)

## God Resists the Proud

The Online Dictionary defines pride as  
*“thinking too highly of oneself; conceited,  
arrogant, or overconfident”*

It is this heart and mind attitude that God is resisting. When people experience resistance in life, it can be bothersome. But when the Lord of heaven and earth resists us, it is very serious!

Narcissists tend to have one thing in common from what I have seen in dealing with them from a ministry perspective - their lives are shaken (and sometimes fall apart) when circumstances confront the shortcomings and personal failures. Their relationships tend to shatter when they are self-absorbed. The fragile egos that they desperately work so hard to build and nurture at the expense of others tend to experience hit after hit. This is God's active resistance. God's grace is extended to those who are willing to humble themselves. Humility is not the same as self-deprecation or self-humiliation. True humility is seeing yourself from the right perspective.



To see yourself in correct relation to God and others is essential. Doing this is to attempt to look past the lies of Satan that distort reality. It is to see the truth and embrace it. This transforming work only God can do! When you have little time to love and serve God... or others around you - it may be that you are too busy with yourself. The real danger comes when we get bored with the world rotating around us.

No person is or should be the centre of existence. Only God should be our all. God did not design us to live for ourselves, nor are we created to serve our selfish desires exclusively. We are designed to reach beyond ourselves with love, compassion, empathy and justice. Jesus himself taught this in various places by instructing His audiences that they are to...

***“Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you. This is the great and supreme commandment. And the second is like it in importance: You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself. Contained within these commandments to love you will find all the meaning of the Law and the Prophets.”***

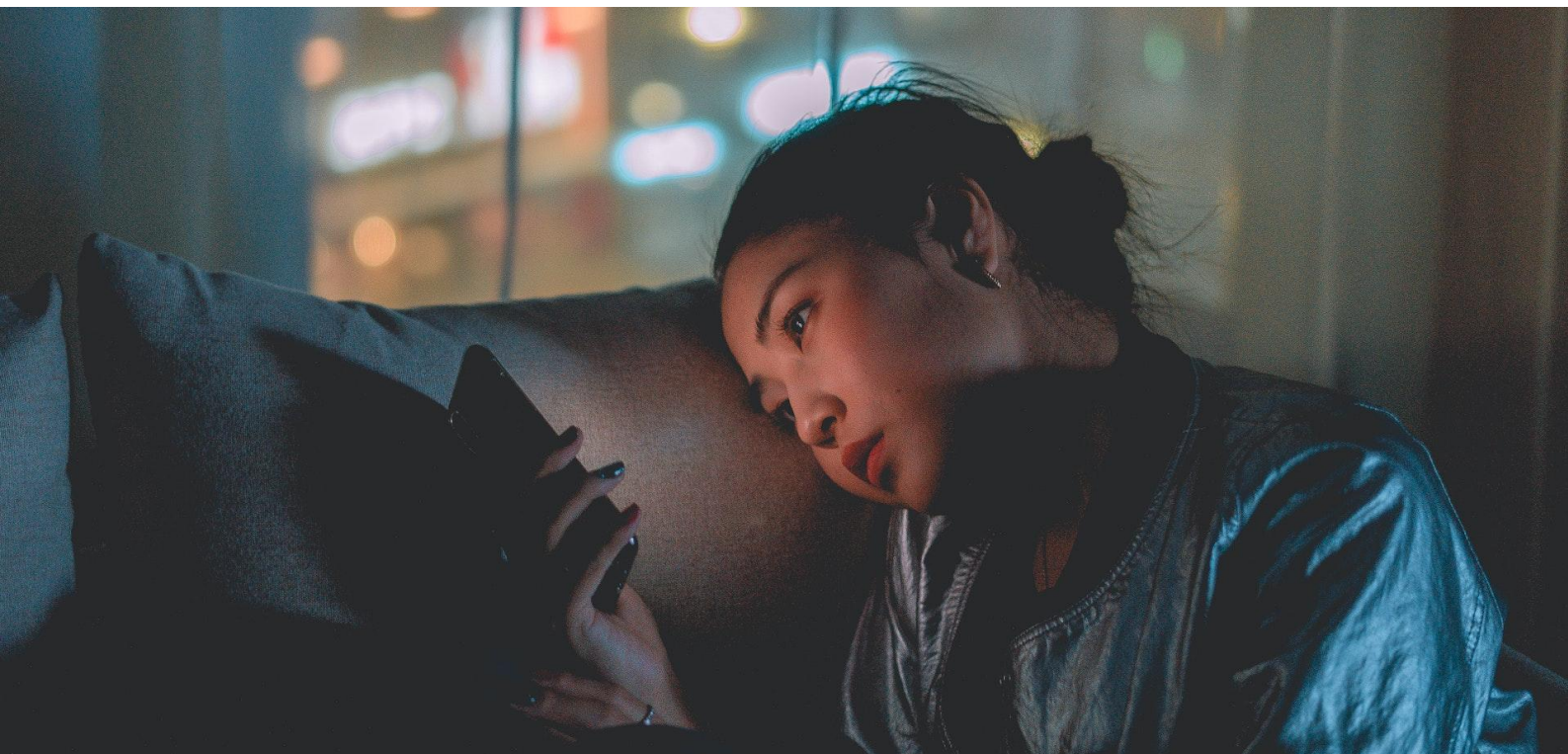
Matthew 22:37-40 TPT

With this command. Jesus instructs people to return to the purpose of their original design. Much of the mess humanity finds itself in comes from the way humans do not pursue this mandate. This is how we fall short of God’s glory. This is why so many remain in sin and deep brokenness through fear. The poor self-image and fragile ego found in narcissists is a symptom of the deep-seated fear that many experience in their day-to-day lives.

This behaviour is so different to that of Jesus, who came to serve and lay His life down for the sins of the world. His worthy example, in stark contrast to that of the narcissist, remains for all to see.

**Fears that narcissists face include:** A fear of rejection. A fear of punishment. A fear of failure. A fear of inadequacy. A fear of being misperceived. A fear of exposure, shame or humiliation.

FEAR is such a powerful driver for the choices of so many. If we are willing to humble ourselves before God, to sit at His feet we may be surprised to hear what good things He has to say about us. Things that don't just prop up a fragile ego or feed our insecurities. God wants to tell us loving, eternal truths that build our identity in Jesus Christ. Find yourself at the feet of Jesus. Open and willing to learn about perfect love. It is at this place that He begins to reforge our broken identity.



***“Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love’s perfection drives the fear of punishment far from our hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of punishment has not reached love’s perfection...”*** (1 John 4:18 TPT).

From what we read in this scripture, fear is related to punishment - many see any sort of correction, help or suggestion as a punishment. This stems largely from the formative years - when a young person is held to misperceived or real unreachable standards. Failure brings a torrent of consequences and punishment. This causes the narcissist to question everyone’s motives. They see every gesture of help toward them as an attack on them for their inadequacy. Their fragile identity is very wounded and as such cannot handle any more perceived attacks, no matter how well-meaning those around them are. Like a wounded animal, trapped in a corner, they lash out at all around them.

While we are called to be careful in relationships, especially with those we open our hearts to, narcissists are never able to open themselves up to genuine people who care for them deeply.



In the end the relationships remain shallow and unfulfilling. Every person's love toward them is put into question and rejected for fear that their motives are wrong.

Social media works similarly as young people risk themselves on public platforms, exposing their personal photos, ideas, opinions and creativity to harsh and unloving comments and criticism. Instead of sharing these things in a safe space among friends and family who build and guide the younger person toward a healthy self-perception and identity, they are at risk of targeted remarks and malicious comments on a public platform. When young people are bullied in this way, it contributes to a further breakdown of the person's ego.



That is why so many fragile self-esteem issues (such as seen in teens) result in folk building a false image of themselves on social media. Very few young people have the maturity to use social media freely without supervision, yet many do so without good guidance or a healthy, balanced view of self.

## **Can a Narcissist Be Helped?**

No one is beyond God's help. God can heal the brokenhearted, His Spirit releases prisoners and captives. But the narcissist must be willing to open up to God's righteous judgement of their situation. Judgement is no the same as condemnation. Judgement is a true assessment from God's perspective, concerning the state of affairs of our lives. The cross of Jesus reminds us of all of our inadequacies, sins and failures. Not to shame us, but to put within us a conviction that we need help and a Saviour. This is challenging for a narcissist to receive and hear because of the fragility of their self-esteem. We have heard and seen how brave individuals have embraced humility and have come to Jesus with all their sin and brokenness to find salvation and redemption!

A high-angle photograph of a diverse group of about ten people standing in a line along a large, multi-paned window. They are all looking down at their smartphones, appearing to be in a queue or waiting for something. The scene is brightly lit by natural light from the window. The people are dressed in casual to business-casual attire. The overall mood is one of collective distraction or digital dependency.

Narcissism - A sign of the times.

**“We have a collective responsibility as the Church to train families to use social media - instead of social media training them!”**

GOD gave them a new identity in Jesus and healed them of all their past hurts. This is the transforming power of Christ at work - the breakthrough we need. Together with our obedience to Love God with all our heart, Romans 12:1-2 explains to us tells us that He imparts to us a desire not to be self-obsessed but to lay our lives down as a living sacrifice to God. This is the recovery journey that helps people live for more than their own self-image. We are also instructed to love our neighbour as ourselves - in other words, the Holy Spirit should be given the space He wants in our lives to help us translate the energy we put into obsessing about ourselves, into powerful acts of love and service for His Kingdom!

Remember, to protect the next generation we must set the example and use technology responsibly! We are living in a different world than the previous generations. Technology is part of this world - and a necessity. It is time we take control of technology. Instead of shaping ourselves to move with the currents of technology. Technology should be allowed in our lives with healthy boundaries. Social media provide valuable services.

We have a collective responsibility as the Church needs to train families to use social media - instead of social media using them! The older generations that know how to engage technology correctly, had someone to teach them. Likewise, when it comes to using social media correctly, the knowledge must be proactively taught to our young people. Only safe and acceptable personal information should be shared with one's inner circles and the rest of the world. The added problem of sexual predators should also cause us to teach our children to be careful. The primary target of predators are those with poor self-esteem, isolating them from their community. Encourage team activities to discourage isolation tendencies among this generation. Team activities have a way of teaching our young people a balanced view of themselves relative to the circles they mix with. Our prayers are with you in these challenges!

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**Please note:** *This article is not touted as professional or solicited advice. It is an exploratory opinion piece for the purpose of stimulating discussion among Christians of all backgrounds. Narcissism is a condition that is affecting many, and Christians have the right to understand the possible challenges that life may bring them at home, at work, in the Church and in their world! †*



**Jeremiah 10:6 AMP**

“There is none like  
You, O LORD; You are  
great, and great is  
Your mighty and  
powerful name.”

# Kingdom Builders Global

*Report by Louise Ambati*

I love February month, not only because I was able to have my 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday but since my childhood, it has always been a beautiful month - can't explain why!



It's been a three-year Journey with Bhagya Raj. From finding him in a hut made with leaves dying of TB to getting him through to a hospital for the second time and ending up with him being baptized and settled in proper accommodation.

What a journey. His health is better. Breathing with slight difficulty still since he has only one lung and with his heart weakened it's quite common that he gets tired easily.

He has loads of faith that God is going to restore his heart and lungs completely. We found comfortable rented accommodation for him with one of our co-worker's, bro Ramy. He is settled and happy and they take very good care of him. A lot of brokenness was healed too. He lost his mom when he was one and a half years old. His dad left after that. He has grown up by himself. Made many wrong decisions, (like many of us). He later got married and has two kids but when he started to get sick and was not able to work his wife left with the kids. She got married to someone else. We believe that God has already started the process of restoring everything in his life. He is so positive and says he just wants to get completely healthy so he can just work for God for the rest of his life. We agree in faith. Hallelujah. Thank you for all your prayers, encouragement and support towards his well-being. †

*Consider supporting  
Louise?*



Matthew 20:28

*"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

**There are two kits available to choose from - and these can be adjusted to the needs of the community or individuals who are committing themselves to this project.**



This is an initiative created by **The Chicken Barn** to assist families and communities in starting a viable farming endeavour. The challenges of the economy, the poor access to safe protein sources and the constant challenge of food security make this an ideal project to pursue.



## The Process

- 4-week-old chicks are raised until 20 weeks.
- Chicks sleep and feed in the chicken coops, but roam outside in the daytime.
- A typical diet includes grass, insects, and commercial feeds.
- Chicken manure is removed daily and composted by piling up and watering.
- The coop is moved every six weeks, and manure is worked into the soil where the coop used to stand.
- Vegetable seeds are planted on the fertilized patch of soil.
- The ratio of chicks is usually 60% hens and 40% roosters.
- Two roosters are kept for breeding, and the rest are either slaughtered and sold or sold as live chickens.
- Roosters with good genetics can be sold for around 120 Rand\*\* each.
- Profit from chicken sales is used to buy commercial feed.

*\*\*Note: Rand is the currency of South Africa and is subject to market prices and demand fluctuations.*

# The Chicken Barn Starter Kit

- 1 x 6 x 2m Chicken Coop built with PVC pipe and greenhouse sheeting.
- Nest boxes.
- Roosting Bars for chickens to sleep.
- Chicken Feeders and drinkers
- Commercial chicken feed\*
- Vegetable seeds.
- Potchefstroom Koekoek Chicks 4-week old\*
- Training and support
- Options to resupply your chicken enterprise affordably with additional feed, chickens etc to expand your operation if your so desire.

*\* quantities supplied depend on the size of the kit purchased.*



Prices and subsidies can be discussed with PS MORNE LOTTER, the project manager. **For more information please contact Ps Morne Lotter's office at [chickenbarnhatchery@gmail.com](mailto:chickenbarnhatchery@gmail.com) or +27 81 779 7309 †**



# Do You Know Our **Passionate God?**

*By Alan Foxley*

**The Passion of God Toward Us!** God is all feeling, all heart. Ever had an emotional high? God has them. Yes, God's

emotions are stronger than ours, His feelings run deeper and more intense than ours. This is reflected in His judgements. No wonder *Romans 11:22 (NLT)* says; "Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off." We are talking of feelings leading to love for us, but we are also talking of feelings that lead to anger against injustice. If this sounds familiar, it is. Adam was made in the image of God. Your emotions are a reflection of God's emotions, so you have the ability to understand Him and relate to Him. Not that God is a respecter of persons though, for His sense of justice demands that all people be treated equally. But He does have His favourites...

He says in *Isaiah 66:2 (NIV)*, “*These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.*”

Jesus voiced this in the Beatitudes when He said in *Matthew 5:3 (NLT)*, “*God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven, is theirs.*” He was speaking of those who realised that their need of Him was so great that they understood what He stated in *John 15:5 (NLT)* when he said, “*...apart from me you can do nothing.*” David was such a man.



## The Passion of God Reflected in David's Passion For God

When the Sons of Jesse were called together that Samuel might anoint a king from among them, David was left out in the field, disregarded as a candidate. He could not rely on the compassion or appreciation of his family, he could only fall back on God's kindness. No wonder *Acts 13:22* says that *"I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do."* Who else could he turn to but the Lord? It was the Lord that saw David's heart and had him anointed as king in front of all his more senior brethren.

Many claim to seek God through the Bible, but it's by the Bible only that they seek. God is far bigger than that. David saw the God of Israel work and speak in everything that was around him. He was seeing God deliver him from the lion and the bear and this was his preparation for tackling Goliath. While an army of people who knew the word of God remained paralysed on their feet.

He became *"the sweet Psalmist of Israel"* because his heart reflected the yearnings and emotions of the heart of God.



## Reflecting on The Passion of Jesus reflects the Passion of His Father

In *Psalm 23:5 (NLT)* David declared; “*You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*” God honours the dishonoured, whose hope is in him. David was searching for and finding God in his everyday experiences. This was his “*table of experiences*” that he feasted on daily.

Jesus had these experiences during His walk here on earth. In *Luke 10:21 (NLT)* the scripture recounts that *“At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.”* This prayer and the desire seen between Father and Son reveals to us that God roots for the lowly in heart. This is not an action taken by a hard, calculating speculator. It’s more like the emotional, knee-jerk reaction of the world’s “social justice warriors”, only God does it on a far higher, more noble plane.

The need then, is for people to know this about the nature of God. In *Jeremiah 9:23-24 (BSB)* the prophet stated: *“This is what the LORD says: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, nor the strong man in his strength, nor the wealthy man in his riches. But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises loving devotion, justice and righteousness on the earth—for I delight in these things...’”* Knowing God in terms of His personality comes when we see what He likes and dislikes. It is the path to the heart of God.

*John 17:3 (NLT) says; “And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.”* Jesus is at the heart of God’s passion! The Lord is far from being a cold, distant genius, our God is a person of emotions that run deep through the Bible and the pages of history. There are times in the Bible when it appears that God’s emotions have threatened to overrule His logic. This is why *1 Corinthians 1:25 (NLT) says; “This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.”*

*In the Song of Solomon, 6:11-12 (TPT) The Shulamite Bride of the Prince (Christ) says, “I decided to go down to the valley streams where the orchards of the king grow and mature. I longed to know if hearts were opening. Are the budding vines blooming with new growth? Has their springtime of passionate love arrived? Then suddenly my longings transported me. My divine desire brought me next to my beloved prince, sitting with him in his royal chariot. We were lifted up together!”* This means that when we see the beauty of the fruit and love of God’s Spirit working through Jesus Christ, God imparts to us an experience, a “high” that far surpasses the greatest excitements that this world has to offer.



## A godly Response to the Lord's Passion for Us

When people see how warm and loving God really is, their hearts can be turned to respond to God in thankfulness and wonder. *Romans 2:4 (NIV)* says that “...*God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance... (turning)*”. It may be simple interest at the first, but as folk continue following Jesus in a relationship that is experiencing His kindness, this curiosity turns to love.

God is looking for dear companions to be with forever. From Adam and Eve, with whom He had fellowship during the cool of the day, to Jesus’ twelve disciples, whom He chose firstly “*to be with Him*” on to the countless testimonies of vibrant Christians today. The Lord takes particular notice, however, of people who yearn and desire after Him.



*Genesis 32:29 (NLT)* is a prime example...We see the first account of Jacob taking an interest in God (instead of just in himself). It happened when Jacob “...asked the angel who had wrestled with him; ‘Please tell me your name,’ The angel replied; ‘Why do you want to know my name?’ Then he blessed Jacob there.”

In *2 Samuel 7:17-29 (NLT)* David was gifted with a gracious, passionate promise that far exceeded his passion as a human. He said, “*I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!*” David was passionately concerned at the seeming injustice God was experiencing. God’s reply to David was that he would instead build David a house in the form of an everlasting dynasty. We have read of the passion that God has for individuals, but He also has passion for nations that desire to follow Him. In *Jeremiah 2:2 (Amp)* the Lord says to Israel: “*I remember [earnestly] the lovingkindness and devotion of your youth, Your time of betrothal [like that of a bride during the early years in Egypt and again at Sinai], When you followed Me in the wilderness, Through a land not sown.*”

If this is what God did for saints before the New Testament time, how much more can He not do it for you today since Jesus walked the earth? God is looking for an excuse to bless you too!



## God's Passion Builds Our Faith!

We can quote the scripture in *Romans 10:17 (KJV)* that says “...*faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” And yet find that we still have no faith after we have read the Bible. We need to always understand that it is seeing the love of God in the Word of God that counts.

***Galatians 5:6 (NLT) clearly says:  
“What is important is faith expressing  
itself in love...”***

We can treat the Word of God as if it was some kind of mantra, which, if uttered, “*magically*” dispels any unbelief. Those doing this fail to see that if they do not understand the love and sense the feelings of God towards them, then their faith will not be quickened.

## Allowing the Passion of God to Take You Further

Many want a personal relationship with God, but don't believe that He has a personality. How can you have a relationship with someone like that? Many also feel that God is hard and uncaring because of what they have gone through with parents, siblings, teachers, fellow pupils, colleagues, family and even fellowships.

There are times that an uncaring element manifests itself in the Church. This has the potential to seriously distract many believers from early on in their Christian walk. But the Lord says in *Isaiah 49:15 (ESV)*; "*Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.* " Yet people's perceptions remain warped, and no wonder; it's hard to have warm conversation and fellowship with someone that you think is like a computer.

One of the effects of believing that God is a cold, emotionless being is that people struggle to talk to the Lord on a regular basis, if at all. Yet despite the bone-dry experience, many still persist in running their Christian experiences and their ministries in exactly this way. Matthew 7:23 (KJV) tells us that on Judgement Day, Jesus is going to say to many involved in ministry (but not in relating to Him)...

*"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* it is iniquity (perverseness) to take hold of the good things of God without giving a moment's notice for the One who gave them to you. It is iniquity to see one's life taken from curse to blessing and yet have no feeling of love and gratefulness for the one who has been so kind to you.

### **God's Passion Can Show You A Better Way!**

One does not need to have the heartless bone-dry religion that characterises the bulk of many religious institutions". God is a God of feeling for others and He wants to earnestly express his joy to you and allow you to live out the nature of Jesus in your own personal life. The experience begins with receiving His kindness towards you. *Titus 3:4-5 (NLT)* says: *"When God our Saviour revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy..."* God *"has done His loving"*, and now He is looking for a people that will respond to Him with the feelings He gave them. In *Philippians 3:8-10 (Amplified Bible)* the Apostle Paul outlines his response to this kindness, saying: *"I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."*

*...[and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequalled]. For His sake, I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him [believing and relying on Him], not having any righteousness of my own derived from [my obedience to] the Law and its rituals, but [possessing] that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith. And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely].“*

My encouragement to you is that you sit down and ponder over the Lord as being one who is all feeling and all compassion. Then reach out to Him on the basis of His promises to you, knowing that they are backed by an everlasting heart of love towards you.

†





***“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20***

Dear partners, we must trust the Son of God to help us daily through this incredible journey with Him. To live a crucified Christ life is not easy. The Lord sends us beacons - examples (like Paul) who lived totally surrendered to God. Rev. Andrew Murray was convinced that total surrender to God was the only way to go. In the times we are living in, we must begin to realise that things are getting serious. There is a battle for the souls of men and women. Satan is doing His utmost to destroy all life on this planet. The period of grace before the return of Jesus only gets shorter. We need to look to God to reach one of the least reached of all the continents - ASIA! Our vision is to build an Asia-wide collaboration, a family of Kingdom-focused labourers who are willing to live the crucified life. People empowered by the Holy Spirit to do great exploits for their God. People who honour King Jesus. We cannot do this alone. The Ekklesia around the world needs to arise and take a serious look at its priorities. A life surrendered to God remains the most satisfying and most liberating. Are you willing to dive in with your whole life to do what the Lord requires of us?

**RSA Office Report:** Since 2021 we have done excellently in cutting back unnecessary expenses. We are pushing to incorporate sustainable initiatives. We are focussing on equipping the workers with solid, proven, Biblical training. We are encouraging an expansive approach to Southeast Asia and beyond. The reality is we still face many uphill challenges. In particular, South Africa is in the middle of some challenging crises. This makes it harder for us to find support to reach other nations while domestic problems threaten to unravel here. We however stand firm in the knowledge that Jesus is Lord. We ask that you pray for the South African Office that even though all these difficult things are happening, God will see us through the storms and provide for all the ongoing needs of the Asian missionaries (many of whom have problems far worse than ours in South Africa). One challenge is the need to become fully digital. The South African Post Office is no longer a sustainable or reliable option for us. Paper has become very expensive, and printing is time-consuming due to long power cuts. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** If you have not yet subscribed, please send us your permission to send you our email or WhatsApp newsletter. Both have their words in large format (with full-colour pictures) for easy reading on small and large screens. Please pray for all the matters in this update!



**The RSA team has been challenging the Filipinos since 2021 to go to the Southern Island of Mindanao.** Parts of the Island are very dangerous, but we recently connected with a South African, Pierre Oosthuizen of the Sons of Abraham ministry. He lives with his family on the Island. He does amazing work in this area. Our discussions with him focussed on training one or two of our people through World Mission Centre's Live School programme. Please pray for this.

**Mercy McAnnoque (Philippines):** We are always happy to hear about the progress Mercy is making among the MSO (Muslim Sisters Organisation). She is given an opportunity to share a Good News message among the entire group at each visit. She has recently partnered with Jonathan Libag and Nector Copero to improve the farming needs of the community. Read more about Mercy's work online.

**Ludivico & Lorena Niturada (Philippines):** Celebration is in the air as the Church established by this lovely couple praises God together for 25 years since its founding. We praise God for the impact that this body of believers has had in their community. The testimonies and feedback from the celebration alone are something to thank God for.

Read more about this dynamic team online! ([see photo below](#))



**Raylyn Sumayao (Philippines)** and her team have good news on their men’s ministry (among other things). It is wonderful to read about the men involved in their communities. It can be challenging in many countries to reach men. Raylyn’s team is using community services to connect with rice farmers and local Churches.

**Jonathan Libag (Philippines):** We are excited to read about Jonathan’s vision and work in Mindanao. We recently received his report and are astounded at his progress. Read their news and pray for their vision in Northern Mindanao.



**(Jonathan and team with the Aeta village for Christmas)**

**Joel and Susanna Isang (Philippines):** Some of the ministry teams are absolutely overloaded with work. We recently received pictures as a quick update of the work this team is doing.

Sometimes they cannot say much, so they drop quick messages. Joel tells us that souls are being saved at his workplace and they are starting a new mothers' ministry in Barangay, Manaois.



**(Joel en Susanna and their teams are doing amazing work from Tarlac to Paniqui, Philippines)**

**Julie Pedro and team (Philippines)** ask us to pray for the work in Sagada Mountain Province, which has many dangers and challenges. They also need prayers for their outreach several hours out of Baguio city in Naguillan.

With love and gratitude, **Asia Vision Team**

**VISIT: [www.asiavision.org.za](http://www.asiavision.org.za) †**

# VALUABLE

## to JESUS

*Report co-authored  
with Annelize Fourie*

It is essential that we approach the work we do with a God-given freshness. The Holy Spirit truly helped us to engage children and adults in a different way during 2022.



We were invited to bring the Valuable to Jesus message to youth camps hosted by LIG-Kinderbediening (LIGHT-Children's Ministry).

The need for the Valuable to Jesus message is so great in communities all over the world. Sexual brokenness remains a key challenge for many families and communities. The key to these camps was not only sharing hope but also seeing healing!



The core principles of the VALUABLE TO JESUS message is really from the heart of God. While we are consistently sharing from one message to the next, there is never a moment where the message is exactly the same. The Holy Spirit tailor-makes each message to suit the group we are speaking to. It is a personal approach that God brings to the table in order to address matters relating directly to the individual hearts and lives of people.

Earlier in the year we had the pleasure of sharing the Valuable to Jesus message with Mercy House Shelter for Abused and Trafficked women and children. It is very interesting to see how God works in these places. Where so much pain has been inflicted on the vulnerable and innocent - Jesus is there to comfort the brokenhearted.



World Mission Centre asked us to come and share the VALUABLE TO JESUS message at their Prayer Camp. One particular moment that stood out for us was the story of a young mother who shared her story of sexual brokenness and how God met with her to heal her of years of rape she experienced as a child. God is ready and able to heal us! Visit [www.valuabletojesus.org.za](http://www.valuabletojesus.org.za) †

**One of the most exciting moments of the Valuable to Jesus message is the moment where we are able to tell the audience that **GOD CAN HELP** in our darkest moments.**

**Dark moments are something that we all face at one point in our lives. They come in varying degrees for various people, but Jesus is faithful to help us when we call on Him!**



**It was so special to be among friends at  
WORLD MISSION CENTRE's prayer camp!**





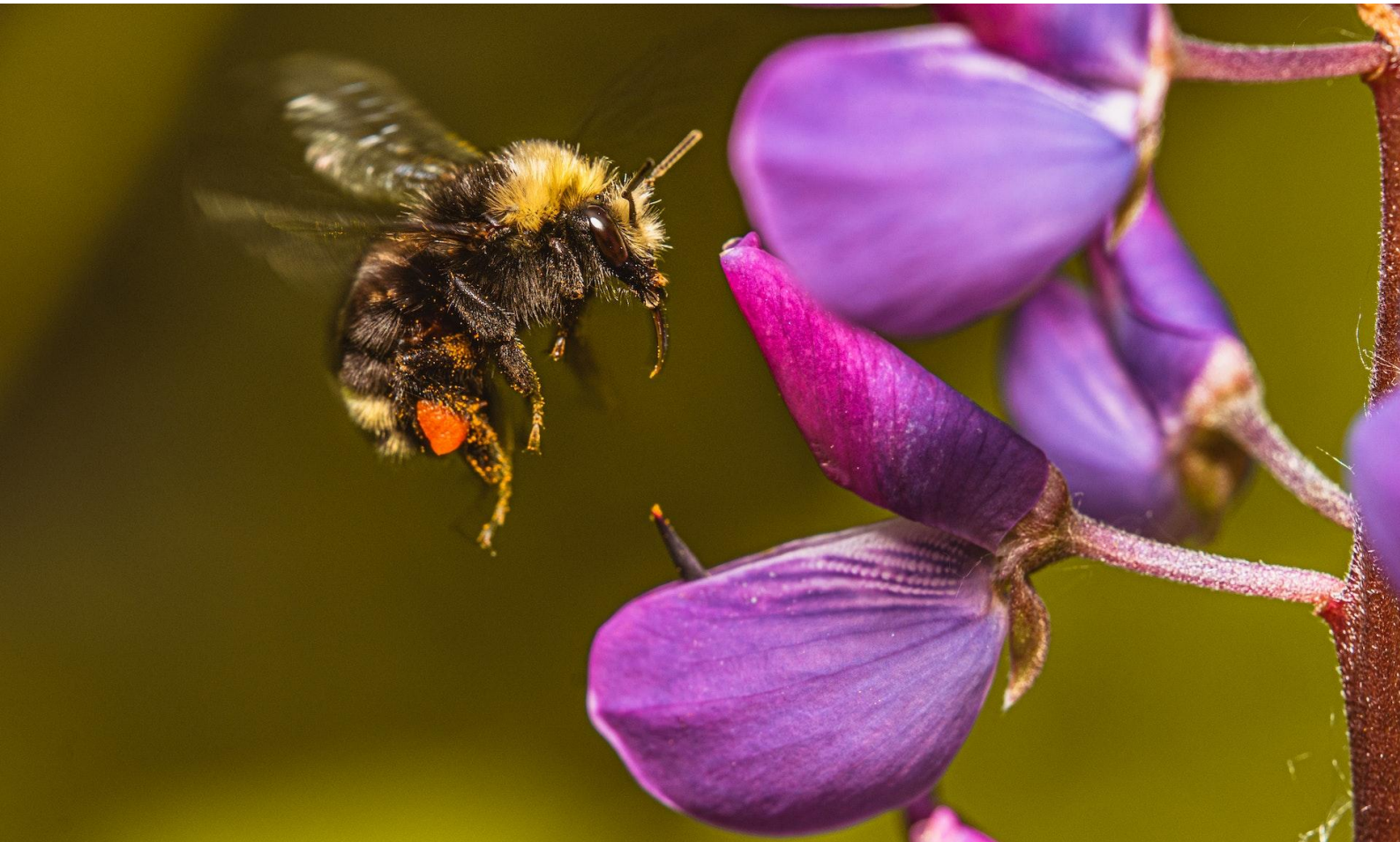
**Isaiah 40:26 GW**

“Look at the sky and see.  
Who created these things?  
Who brings out the stars  
one by one? He calls them  
all by name. Because of the  
greatness of his might and  
the strength of his power,  
not one of them is missing”



# Bumblebees

*By Alan Foxley*



I was looking at a bumblebee descending on fresh flowers to suck up their nectar and was reminded of how the Lord wants us to sow the seed of His word. While this little creature fulfills the vital role of pollinating many flowers, that is not her intention. Rather, she goes after the sweet nectar inside the base of every flower and perhaps collects some pollen for later consumption.

In much the same way, the Lord intends us to pursue a precious and joyful relationship with the Lord Jesus, and have the sowing of the seed as a byproduct that flows out of that oneness with Him.

The alternative followed by many is to grimly sow the seed out of a sense of burdensome *"duty"*. In *Malachi 1:13* the Lord rebuked the priests for finding his work *"wearisome"* and in *Jeremiah 23* the Lord corrected those who spoke of *"the burden of the Lord"* throughout the chapter.

For those who follow in a precious relationship with Jesus, however, the end result is seen in the *Book of Acts 14:52*, where it recounts that; *"...the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit"* A confirmation of this is in the words of Peter, who said in *1 Peter 2:7*; *"...to you who believe, He is precious..."*

Let us therefore, as the bumblebee, seek after the precious person of the Lord. Let us desire to experience His presence more than anything else and we will find ourselves fulfilling the great commission out of a joyful awareness of Him rather than out of burdensome duty. †

# PALM TREE

## LEADERSHIP FORUM

[www.ptlf.org.za](http://www.ptlf.org.za)

We are blessed by God's goodness to all our members of the PALM TREE LEADERSHIP FORUM (PTLF). While the difficulties faced by our people were many, the Lord delivered us from so much. He is bringing us to a pleasant season. We have toiled, plowed, sowed and diligently watered. It is the Lord who is giving increase in His wonderful way. We are grateful to everyone who has committed themselves to supporting us in prayer, time and resources! Thank you from all of us.

We want to specifically make mention of Ps Seipati of Senotlelo Branch in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. She has lived the vision of PTLF in her own community with a focus on training and strengthening her members. The Lord has opened doors for her to reach out to the youth with fire and passion! It is serious business to raise a new generation, so effective training is essential for this!



(LEFT) Liesbeth Nkwinika - one of the main presenters of the training was very effective!

**SENOTLELO TRAINING:** Sunday school teachers of the previous generation took hands with Senotlelo Branch to train them in working with children. Using various Bible stories used by generations before, they were able to inspire young people to engage their peers and the younger ones with life changing Good News messages.

**HEBRON TRAINING:** We were honoured to have Courtney and Monia Hendriks from PETRA Children's Institute (now living and working in Zambia), to come and train three of our leaders, Ps. Johannah Bopape, Ps. Elizabeth Mabelane and Ps. Petrus Lekgoathi to also be PETRA instructors. Having done the first part of the training online in August, they then completed the course by presenting it to a group of 21 participants. They will now be qualified to present the PETRA course "Entering the world of children".

Lots of hard work and planning went into this course and the certificates received were well deserved, considering how the candidates practically applied what they learned in the community in Hebron. The townsfolk there truly opened their hearts to receive and accommodate this big group, which also consisted of participants coming from as far as the Eastern Cape and White River.

We are very grateful for Ps. Annah Thobejane who opened her house for these 8 days to be the venue where the training took place as well as hosting and accommodating many of the participants. Three local Hebron ladies as well as Ps. Seipati from Senotlelo did the catering for these eight days, treating everybody with delicious meals to have sufficient energy to complete a tough but very worthwhile week of training. We are looking forward to see the good fruit in our communities from this training, as we better understand how to approach and work with children.



**SENOTLELO TRAINING:** What a good turn-out we had with 20 people attending to be empowered by Marleen Mortin from Operation Mobilisation with practical ways of discipleship.



It was a good time for Diborah Bahula from Senotlelo to practice what she had learned from the 2 week training with OM in April.

The group then also learned interesting new ways to present Bible storytelling to children also using puppets and dramas.

Everybody got a chance to be part in presenting their story to the group and this made it a day to remember.



## Fun days and training days at Senotlelo





**Well done to Senotlelo branch for your hard work and team effort!**



## **PTLF CELEBRATION & AGM 2022:**

Our year concluded on a positive note when we brought PTLF branch leadership and members together from all the branches to close off with our Celebration and AGM. This was a special time for all and we have been deeply challenged by what God has called us to do in our communities and for the children we minister to. We praise God for every Kingdom worker that is involved to work and make a difference in the Kingdom. Our ministry books and reports are available for perusal upon request.

**Thank you for all the support during 2022. †**

**Jeremiah 32:17**

“Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You”



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# CAN YOU TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS?



*“Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the LORD.”  
(Leviticus 19:32 NLT)*

There is a very old English saying - *“you can't teach an old dog new tricks”*

Society means that you cannot teach older people to change their ways and it can also mean older people are not able to adapt to *“the new”* as well as the younger generations can.

I have found this to be one of the worst lies of the enemy. A lie that many people have come in agreement with - and one they choose to live by.



The Biblical record of scripture shares with us far more examples of where God would use older folk to lead His people, to help His people and to rule His people.

There are very few scriptural examples of where youth are celebrated in a leadership capacity. King David was a younger man when he was anointed king, but his youthful passion would cost him a child and the life of a dedicated soldier.

We celebrate the raising of the Joshua generations (the next generation) - but we do it at the expense of forgetting those who the world now calls *“old dogs”*.

Why does the world hate the older generation? Is it because they seem weak? Does it remind men and women of what we all need to face - the reality of ageing and death?

These may be legitimate reasons. But many elderly have something Satan does not want - *“experience and wisdom”*.

Elderly people know a thing or two about life. They have bumped their heads and have experienced losses, failures and defeats that have taught them valuable lessons. Satan does not want our younger generation receiving such help and guidance. Satan wants young people to walk in ignorance, so they can fall for the wicked schemes he has planned. Satan wants to destroy the younger generation because he works to destroy the future of all mankind. Our young people are our future!



Whether they are Christians or not - elderly people have got so much to offer society.



Satan has cleverly worked his evil in our world once again to diminish and minimize the role of society's elders. It is they who make the best leaders, whereas young hotheads often only go crashing in like *"a bull in a china shop"*.

When our elderly know their God - they are strong and do great exploits. When they are full of the Holy Spirit, then they draw their strength from a supernatural source... Jesus Christ. They can be carriers of His wisdom, truth and experience. They can be bold and full of power and authority. They can speak heaven's words at the right time and place. They can be effective where others rely on strength and youth alone. Isaiah 40: 28-31 NLT asks; *"Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*



Consider the following great men of God - who at various ages accomplished amazing things: Like Moses, who foolishly killed an Egyptian at 40 years of age, but faced Pharoah at 80. Daniel was 84 when he was called into service to interpret the writing on the wall. Joshua was around 80 when he was called to serve as leader of Israel. Caleb was 85 when he claimed the mountain in the promised land on behalf of his family. Abraham was 99 when he was told by the angel that he would have a son. He went on to live to around 140 years. From these examples, you see that the Lord has a special place in His heart for those with the silver linings in their hair.

I do believe that elderly believers need to repent of lukewarmness. Sadly, so many older believers are willing to sit back and allow their *“experience and advanced wisdom”* to stay undiscovered. They prefer to sit back and let the young ones blunder on. They have comfortable armchairs and televisions to keep them silenced. Some will barely utter a prayer for those who are in desperate need of help. (I do realise that this is not about all elderly people - only if the shoe fits)

***“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”***  
*(1 Peter 5:5 NKJV)*

The Lord’s order for the Church is to use Elders (the older, experienced believers) as guides and sounding boards. The younger ones are instructed to submit to them until they are mature enough to stand on their own two feet with the Lord. THEN we all are instructed to submit to one another.

If today's message strikes a cord - then praise God. It may come across as a rebuke from a younger brother - then I am sorry. But we will no longer sit by and watch older brothers and sisters align themselves with Satan's lies. To keep the body of Christ limping because the older generation chooses to believe a ridiculous lie that they have nothing of value to contribute - think again.... the valuable assets that the older believers bring to the table have been keeping the Church flying high for centuries.



If you do not know where to start - then begin with waiting on the Lord in prayer. This is the first step for any believer to take. Not one of you can help the younger in your own strength. When you are weak KING JESUS is strong. Allow the Holy Spirit to come and saturate every fibre of your being. Let Him come restore Godly purpose and fulfill the divine mandate God has placed in your life.



*If you need help as an older person to connect with God's purpose for your life... why not message us and we can pray together with you! †*

# The REFRESHING



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of refreshing and fruitfulness!



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